# RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Your topic: ___________________________________________________________  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Context</th>
<th>Example: Great Chicago Fire</th>
<th>Your topic</th>
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</thead>
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| **Big Picture** | • Who settled Chicago?  
• What were Chicago’s buildings made of in the 1870s?  
• Were there a lot of fires in cities in the 1870s?  
• How many people were killed in Chicago fires before the Great Fire?  
• Did Chicago have a fire department? When did it start? How effective was it? | |
| **Right before** | • What types of people lived in the areas around the Great Chicago Fire?  
• What made Chicago vulnerable to such a big fire? | |
| **Main event** | • Where and how did the fire start?  
• How far did it spread?  
• How many were killed as a result of the fire? How much property was destroyed?  
• How long did the fire last? | |
| **Right after** | • Who was blamed for the fire?  
• How did people start to rebuild afterward?  
• Were people insured for their losses?  
• Did the city or state or federal government help with recovery? | |
| **Long after** | • How did buildings and neighborhoods change to prevent this happening again?  
• Has there ever been another disaster in Chicago as bad as the Great Fire?  
• Did the Fire benefit Chicago in any way? How?  
• How has the response to other disasters been different or better than the response to the fire? What did Chicago learn? | |